

If you've been charged  
with a crime, don't go it alone.  
You need a lawyer to help you.



**Whether you're guilty or not, a lawyer can:**

- Fight the charges.
- Get the judge to let you out of detention.
- Find out what other people are saying you did.
- Make a deal for you with the prosecutor.
- Question the witnesses against you, and try to show they're lying or mistaken.
- Get your witnesses to come to court.
- Show that the police violated your rights.
- Argue that the evidence against you should be thrown out.
- Make arguments to the judge for a lighter punishment.
- Keep you out of jail, and come up with another solution.
- Get your fines and costs lowered.
- Keep your case in juvenile court.
- Get counseling for you and your family, if you want it.

My lawyer is \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone number \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



**For more information, contact:**

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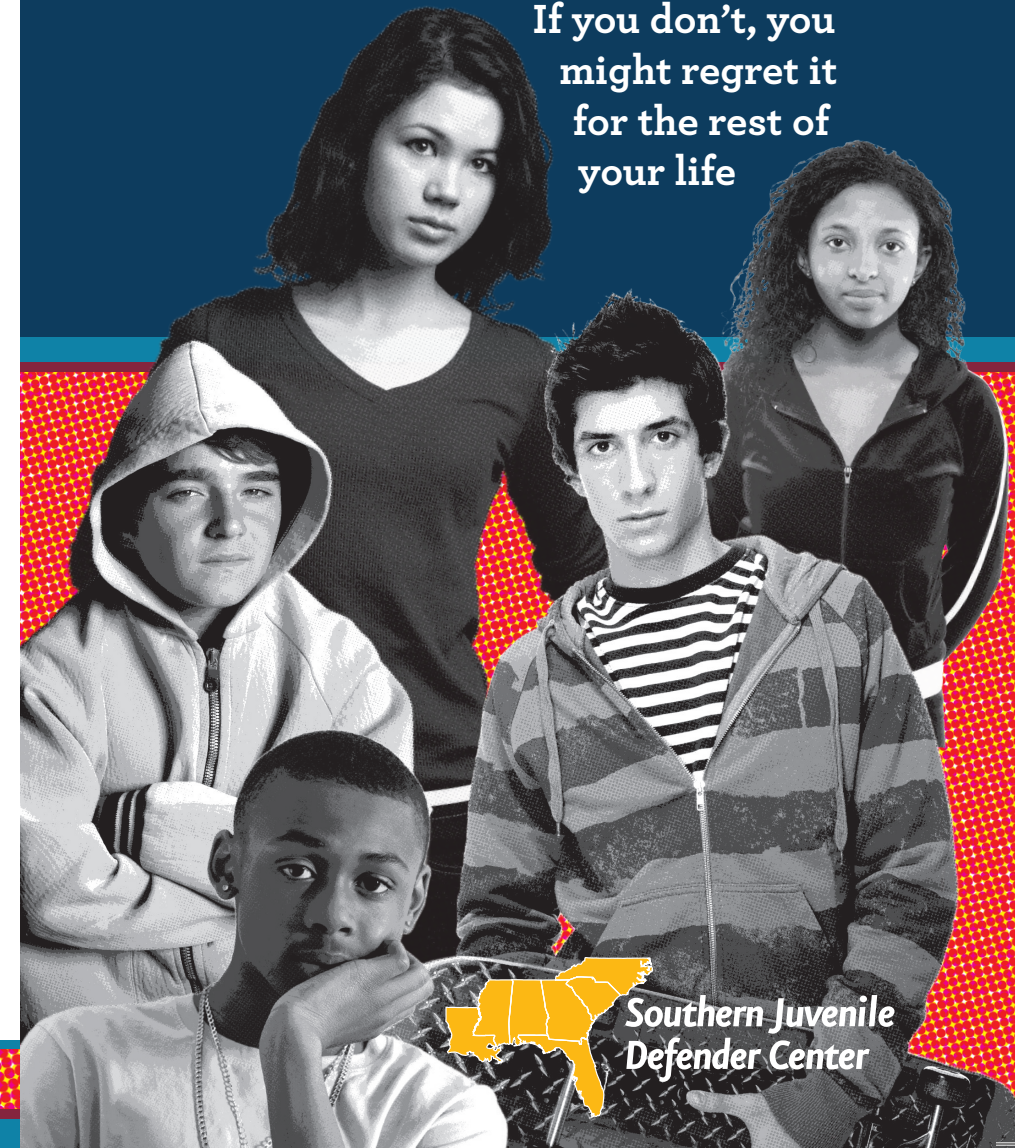
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The lawyer's job is to listen  
to you & fight for you.



CHARGED WITH A CRIME?  
DON'T GO IT ALONE...  
TALK TO A LAWYER

If you don't, you  
might regret it  
for the rest of  
your life







## DANGERS OF PLEADING GUILTY

Sometimes pleading guilty is the best option, but a lawyer is trained to help you figure out whether it's the best option in **your** case. Before you make that decision, talk to a lawyer!

**Pleading guilty in juvenile court could affect the rest of your life.**

**If you admit that you committed a crime in juvenile court, you could:**

- Be locked up in a juvenile prison until you are 21.
- Be on probation until you are 19, which means having to report to a probation officer, having a strict curfew, and submitting to random drug testing.
- Have your learner's permit or driver's license suspended.
- Get kicked out of your current school.
- Get kicked out of public housing.
- Be banned from serving in the military.

- Have a criminal record that future employers and schools can ask you about.
- Be banned from working as a police officer, commercial driver, counselor, nurse, landscape architect, private investigator or teacher, if you did certain crimes.

**Pleading guilty could also cost you and your parents a lot of money.**

- You could be forced to pay probation costs and fines.
- You and your parents could be forced to pay court costs and pay back any damage you did.



## BE SMART

**Take these steps to protect yourself if you are accused of a crime.**

- Ask for a lawyer to be appointed to you. All you have to say is "I want a lawyer."
- Do not talk about your case with anyone except your lawyer.
- Do not plead guilty or admit to the charges without a lawyer.
- Get the lawyer's phone number and give your phone number and address.
- If you're not in detention, make an appointment to see the lawyer as soon as possible.
- Talk to the lawyer about your case and ask all of your questions.
- Discuss your options with the lawyer and find out what might happen with each option.
- Think carefully about your decisions and the advice your lawyer is giving you.